

From: todd chatman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 8:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to denounce the proposed settlement of U.S. v Microsoft. I join a deafening chorus of both experts and laymen who all agree: this settlement will do virtually nothing to create a better environment for competition in the PC software industry or to improve the social good derived from that industry. Didn't you, the DOJ, learn your lesson in 1995 when you slapped Microsoft's wrist and then had to listen to Bill Gates publicly ridicule the consent decree as essentially meaningless? He was right; that decision did nothing to limit Microsoft's anti-competitive practices, largely because the technological map it responded to had been completely redrawn by the time it was written. The same is true in this case -- it has lasted just long enough for Microsoft to have moved beyond the terms of this settlement into new realms of market monopolization. The American people cannot afford to sue Microsoft every 3-5 years while its technological future continues to be held hostage to Microsoft's whims. I beg you: Discard this settlement, rewrite it with real teeth, and pursue its enforcement until we see real innovation and competition in the market again.

Sincerely,

Todd Chatman
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